



## Supporting statement by Dominique Vervoort, InciSioN Coordinator

Every year, 100 million people are pushed into poverty for requiring access to healthcare, and up to 150 million people suffer from catastrophic expenditure due to out-of-pocket payments for health services. Nevertheless, universal health coverage (UHC) is affordable for countries from all income groups, with every dollar invested in health returning ten times the benefits in terms of economic growth.

InciSioN, the International Student Surgical Network, believes that everyone has the right to access healthcare when needed, and in an equal way in doing so, without any social, economic, political, religious, or ethnic discrimination. Accordingly, ageing populations should receive the needed attention for the increasing burden of disease in these populations around the world. However, the accompanying increasing healthcare costs will form an important challenge in achieving or maintaining UHC packages, as witnessed in Japan. Here, the population is expected to shrink by 25% by 2060, making the current and future younger generations even more critical in sustaining the country's homeostasis.

It is important to increase overall healthcare investments, and not to do so at the expense of other populations, with an emphasis on the young. Globally, one billion children live under the poverty line, drastically limiting access to adequate diagnostic and therapeutic healthcare services. Poor access to healthcare services reduces the health and well-being of the young, and limits the development of their inherent potential. With 41.6% of the world population being younger than 25 years old, it is vital to include younger generations in UHC discussions, in order to establish an equal, equitable and sustainable framework now and in the future.

On behalf of the future surgeons, anaesthesiologists, obstetricians and public health specialists from around the world, InciSioN urges national and international leaders and policymakers to increase healthcare spending overall and for the young population, in order to achieve and maintain UHC in all countries, and, accordingly, work towards "Health for All".

*InciSioN - International Student Surgical Network is an international non-profit organization representing over 2,400 medical and public health students, residents and young doctors in over 70 countries working on global surgery.*